



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

For immediate release: Aug. 27, 2002 (02-46)

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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WSDA calls for second-round grant proposals to benefit small-scale agriculture

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has opened round two of a grant program designed to increase sales for small-scale food and agriculture producers. Non-profit organizations, public entities and farm organizations are invited to submit proposals. Oct. 4 is the deadline. Each project requires a 10 percent cash match or 50 percent in-kind match support. Successful grant awards generally involve a variety of collaborators and support increased sales for small farms.

The request for proposal is available on the WSDA Web site at

www.wa.gov/agr/News/2002/attachments/SmallFarmDirectMarketingRFP.pdf.

Organizations will be informed in November about the status of their proposals and contracts are expected to be finalized in December. The recommended range for grants falls between \$5,000 to \$30,000. Grant funding will be provided on a "reimbursement for funds expended" basis. Funding will start in December and projects are to be completed by January of 2004.

"Our goal with these grants is to improve the economic viability of small-scale agriculture," said Leslie Zenz, manager for the department's Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program. "Projects that show a good ability to leverage other funding stand a better chance of being funded."

Proposals will be reviewed by staff in the Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program and its advisory board.

WSDA Director Valoria Loveland will make the final awards

The grants will be funded from \$450,000 in one-time federal funds received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture last year. WSDA has been using the money to promote projects such as farmers markets, mobile livestock processing facilities, direct marketing promotional campaigns, commercial community kitchens and to enhance localized food systems in Washington. About \$239,000 is available for this second round of proposals. The agency awarded \$211,000 to fund 12 projects in late spring. (A news release describing the first round of grants is on the Web site at <http://www.wa.gov/agr/News/2002/news0228.pdf>.)

For information about competing for the grants, contact: Leslie Zenz, WSDA Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program by phone at (360) 902-1884 or e-mail at lzenz@agr.wa.gov.

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